

## ABSTRACT

The primary Role of any Navy is to conduct sustained sea operations and combat at sea, in keeping with its national policies and maintaining the first line of Defence. The Sri Lanka Navy is responsible for Defence and security of Sri Lanka's maritime interests and assets, both in times of war and peace.

Sri Lanka has a relatively small land area compared to the ocean, which the country can claim under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea. Since Sri Lanka is an island state, conducting and maintaining of an effective monitoring and safeguarding system right around the country is considered paramount to prevent any unauthorized entries, which could be a potential threat to the country's security and any form of unauthorized exploitation of country's economic resources.

At present, the country has to spent huge amount of money on land security mainly due to not adequately strengthening the maritime security of the country in the past. Conquer the enemy even without fighting is the acme of skill and that could have achieved only by maintaining an effective maritime surveillance around the country. However due to highly insufficient resources available, the Sri Lanka Navy is not in a position to carryout and maintain even fairly effective command and control over it's sea area at the moment.

The fishery industry is the only resource, which has been exploited by the country. Although resource potential of projects such as offshore mineral deposits, oil and gas, power generation have been proposed as possible areas for exploitation, fisheries remain the only industry, which is fairly operational.

Though the authorities with power had recognized and principally in agreement to expand the Navy facilities and capabilities in a rapid rate have not made any significant contribution to make it a reality due to prevailing severe economic state of the country.

The important issues on maritime surveillance are discussed in Chapter III, and in Chapter IV a comparison has made on budgetary allocations given for Armed Forces for last 05 years. The recommendations are given in the ChapterVII.